Financial Allocation for Development of Tourism in Kerala

935. SHRI M. A. BABY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) what are the details of financial allocation for the development of various tourism promotion projects in Kerala during 1993-94 and 1994-95 ; and

(b) the time frame for completion of various projects ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) The Central Department of Tourism extends financial assistance to the State Governments for specific proposals which are sanctioned subject to their merits, availability of funds and inter-se priorities. No complete proposals have been received from the State Government of Kerala for sanction during current financial year. The State Government of Kerala have not identified any projects in this regard for 1994-95.

(b) Completion of the projects in the responsibility of the State Governments.

Flights operated by IA and Private Airlines in the country

936. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) how many flights are operating within the country ;

(b) how many of them are owend by Indian Airlines and other private airlines ;

(c) how many scheduled flights are there per day ; and

(d) how many passengers are travelling by each flight ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (d) Indian Airlines operates on an average 122 scheduled flights per day within the country. There are 17 Air Taxi permit holders who have been allowed to provide non-scheduled and/or charter services in the domestic sector.

According to the available information, in October, 1993 Indian Airlines carried 5.76 lakh passengers and the Air Taxi Operators 2.14 lakh passengers.

Grounding of aircrafts by Vayudoot

937. SHRI J. P. JAVALI : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Vayudoot has grounded more than half of its aircrafts ;

(b) what are the reasons for grounding of aircrafts when there is a demand for resuming air-services at Hubli and other airports in Karnataka ; and

(c) by when air services at Hubli will be resumed ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 8 Avro and 8 Dornier aircraft, 1 Avro and 2 Dornier aircraft are at present operational. Rest are grounded for major inspections/checks/repairs.

(c) Due to commercial and operational reasons Vayudoot has no immediate plans to resume operation to Hubli.

Demand for pay and allowances by pilots of Vayudoot

938. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the pilots of Vayudoot Limited are demanding pay and allowances at par with the Indian Airlines pilots ;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government to this demand ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Pending completion of legal formalities for merger, Vayudoot continues to be

a separate entity. Its employees therefore continue to be governed by the service conditions, including pay and allowances, as applicable to employees of the company prior to the decision of merger.

Increase in Air Accidents

939. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of accidents involving Indian Airlines planes are increasing for the last one year ;

(b) if so, how many accidents took place during 1992-93 till date indicating in how many cases probe was ordered into IA mishaps ;

(c) whether Government received reports of Inquiry in such cases including of Airbus A-300 Aircraft which was involved in an accident while operating flight No. IC-440 from Madras to Hyderabad near Tirupati on November 15, 1993 ; and

(d) what preventive measures Government have taken so far on the basis of recommendations made by various Committees ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) There have been two accidents involving Indian Airlines aircraft during 1993 compared to one in 1992.

(b) Investigations have been conducted/ ordered into the aforesaid three accidents.

(c) The reports of investigation into the accidents which took place on 26-4-93 near Aurangabad and on 15-11-93 near Tirupathi are awaited from the Courts of Inquiry. The investigation report of the other accident has been received by the Government.

(d) The preventive measures recommended in various investigations into accidents on acceptance by the Government are implemented from time to time. Some of the specific measures which have been taken to improve the level of air safety are :—

(i) Monitoring of aircraft maintenance standards and safety audit of airlines by DGCA.

(ii) Upgradation of facilities at airports.

(iii) Periodic inspection of aerodromes.

(iv) Implementation of measures to eradicate bird menace at airports.

(v) Monitoring of flight recorders.

(vi) Dissemination of safety information to operators.

Payment by Air India to the Register of companies for forming Air India Ltd.

940. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Air India has paid Rs. 80 lakhs to the Registrar of companies for forming a new company, Air India Ltd. and has thus lost a huge amount by way of interest even though a bill to this effect is yet to be passed by Parliament ;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefore ; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter and also to fix responsibility for unwarranted blocking of the Air India funds ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) to (c) The fee paid is in accordance with the scale of fees laid down by Government for registration of companies. Since the purpose of the incorporation was to create a company to take over the undertaking of Air India, on repeal of the Air Corporations Act, 1953, the loss is only notional.